

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT  
**Barcia Press Release**

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## **Senate Passes Barcia Backed Funding for Defibrillators in Schools**

*2006-2007 School Aid budget includes funding requested by Senator Barcia in SB 801 for lifesaving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)*

(LANSING)—Included in next years nearly \$13 billion School Aid budget is a relatively small, but potentially lifesaving \$100,000 appropriation to help place Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in Michigan public schools. The funding, which passed the Senate today and is now headed to the House, was originally introduced earlier this session by Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) in a stand alone bill, SB 801. Like SB 801, the Senate passed appropriation sets aside \$100,000 for a 50/50 matching grant for local school districts that wish to purchase an AED for one of their school facilities.

Senator Barcia has worked closely on this issue with Ben and Jan Zurvalec of Auburn, the parents of Stuart Zurvalec, who tragically died at the age of 12 after suffering cardiac arrest during a basketball tryout. Stuart's grandparents, Ben and Julie Zurvalec testified in Lansing in support of this funding earlier this month.

"I am very happy that this funding, as well as language encouraging the Department of Education to educate local school districts on the importance of AEDs is currently included in the 2007 School Aid and Department of Education budgets," said Barcia. "The Zurvalecs have

been tireless advocates for this cause and hopefully this funding will help save lives in the future.”

Senator Barcia is confident that the appropriation will remain as the House takes up next years School Aid budget. “I have spoken with Representative Moolenaar, who chairs the House Subcommittee on K-12 funding and he has indicated his support for this new program,” continued Barcia. “It is only right that we try to insure that no student will die whose life could have been saved by an AED.”

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